

Amendment No. 1 to SB2557

**Norris
Signature of Sponsor**

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2557*

House Bill No. 2554

by deleting the amendatory Section 41-21-236(a)(2)(B) in Section 1 of the printed bill and by substituting instead the following language:

(B)

(i) In addition to the time program performance credit awarded pursuant to subdivision (a), the department shall provide an educational good time credit of sixty (60) days to any qualifying prisoner who successfully receives a graduate equivalency diploma or a high school diploma, a two (2) or four (4) year college degree, or a two (2) year or four (4) year certification in applied sciences, or who receives a vocational education diploma as provided and defined by the department. No credit shall be given for any such diploma, degree, or certification unless the particular course of study, including the institution or entity through which it is offered, has received the prior approval of the department. A qualifying prisoner may receive no more than one credit of sixty (60) days, regardless of the number of programs completed.

(ii) It is the legislative intent that this credit be implemented by the department in a manner that maximizes the potential of prisoners who will return to the community to become working and productive members of society through the benefit of their educational diploma or certificate. It is further the legislative intent that existing educational and vocational programs offered by the department shall not be increased in size as a result of this act. Priority in enrollment in existing educational and vocational programs shall be given to prisoners who will be eligible for parole or release upon completion of their sentence and who can reasonably be expected to re-enter the workforce. Priority in enrollment shall also be given to prisoners who will be incarcerated by the department for such period of time that they will receive the full credit for sentence reduction provided in this act. Once these priorities have been met, enrollment in

educational and vocational programs by other prisoners shall be available on a space-available basis, without any sentence reduction credit for any diploma or certification received.